

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE SUGAR PROGRAM REFORM ACT

HON. DAN MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today myself, Representative GEORGE MILLER and more than 40 of our colleagues are introducing the Sugar Program Reform Act, a bill to phase out the sugar program by the end of 2002.

The sugar program is the "sugar daddy" of corporate welfare. Why? Because most of the benefits of this program go to huge corporate sugar producers, not the typical family farmer.

The sugar program's sole purpose is to prop up the price of sugar in the United States through a complex system of low-interest, nonrecourse loans and tight import restrictions. In fact, the price of sugar in the United States today is roughly four times as high as the price of sugar world wide.

As a result, the sugar program imposes a "sugar tax" on consumers, forcing them to pay more than \$1 billion in higher prices for food and sugar every year.

It devastates the environment, particularly the fragile Everglades in my home State of Florida. Higher prices for sugar have encouraged more and more sugar production in the Everglades Agricultural Area, leading to high levels of phosphorus-laden agricultural runoff flowing into the Everglades, which has damaged the ecosystem.

It has cost many Americans their jobs because it has restricted the supply of sugar that is available on the American market, resulting in the closure of a dozen sugar refineries across the country.

Finally, it hampers our ability to expand trade opportunities for America's farmers. It is hypocritical for the United States to protect domestic sugar production while urging other countries to open their agricultural markets. America loses leverage in trade negotiations as a result.

The sugar program is an archaic, unnecessary government handout to corporate sugar producers at the expense of consumers, workers, and the environment. It is truly deserving of reform.

The Sugar Program Reform Act will do what the 1996 farm bill failed to accomplish. While the Farm bill began to phase out supports for nearly every farm commodity, sugar escaped without any meaningful reform. The Sugar Program Reform Act will gradually phase out the loans provided to sugar producers, and terminate them at the end of 2002. It will require that any loans provided to sugar producers must be repaid.

Finally, it will require the government to ensure that there is an adequate supply of sugar on the United States market to help keep prices down.

This legislation is good for consumers, good for the environment, good for American workers, and good for the economy.

It is my hope that this legislation will be quickly considered by the House.

BETTY LIPPS IS THE ANGEL AMONG US

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Betty Lipps upon being named Citizen of the Year by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce in recognition of her efforts to create "Angels on Assignment."

"Angels" is affiliated with the First Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, Illinois and began in 1991. Since then the "Angels," which is devoted to helping the needy and homeless in our country, have made a significant contribution to Mount Vernon and the surrounding Jefferson County area.

However, we cannot overlook the significance of Betty Lipps' efforts in creating this program in the first place. Had she not given of her personal time and vision, this program never would have begun and the "Angels" who have come to mean so much to the Mount Vernon area might never have been found.

It takes a lot of people and a lot of hard work to make a program like this flourish the way that "Angels" continues to do. Most importantly, it takes one courageous and determined soul like Betty Lipps to get the whole thing started.

To Betty and her husband of 50 years, Bob, I say thank you. Thank you for all you do to make our lives a little better. In your honor, I am wearing the "Angels" yellow ribbon on the House Floor today as a reminder that with a little bit of love and understanding there truly are angels among us. Thanks Betty.

EU BEEF BAN NOT BASED ON SCIENCE OR FACTS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to commend to his colleagues the following editorial from the May 11, 1999, Journal of Commerce. This editorial provides a thoughtful look at the issues surrounding the European Union's ban on hormone-treated beef. As the editorial emphasizes, since the ban is not based on science, the EU should give consumers the choice of purchasing American beef.

The United States and the European Union, twin champions of a rules-based global trading system, are heading toward another senseless trade showdown, this one over hormone-treated beef.

Like the banana dispute that preceded it—and on which the United States is now collecting trade penalties from EU exporters—the current fight over beef hormones stems from European intransigence.

In the banana case, the EU insisted that its political ties with former colonies took precedence over its duty to deal fairly with other nations' banana producers. In the current fight over hormone-treated beef, the EU insists that its trading obligations must take a back seat to exaggerated public fears over tampering with nature. This is an untenable stance for a major trading power; the EU should abandon it before doing any more damage to the global trading system.

The dispute has dragged on since the EU first banned hormone-treated beef in 1988. The issue picked up steam in 1995, when the World Trade Organization's agreement on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures forbade the use of bogus health and safety regulations as de facto trade barriers.

Acting on a U.S. complaint, the WTO ultimately ruled that the EU ban of imports of hormone-treated beef is not based on sound science, and told the EU to make a change by May 13. To Washington, this meant the ban must be lifted by Thursday. But Brussels decided the ruling means that more risk assessment is needed, and it ordered up 17 scientific studies. It also said it would announce its intentions this week on how to respond to the WTO order.

Then, last week, EU Consumer Affairs Commissioner Emma Bonino dropped a bombshell into the hubbub of predictions and expectations. Citing the interim results of the first of the 17 studies, the chain-smoking Ms. Bonino said hormone-treated beef is so unsafe that it must continue to be banned from the EU market. "There can no longer be any question of lifting the ban," she said.

U.S. officials were flabbergasted, and rightly so. The announcement pre-empted the so-called scientific studies the EU had launched. It even jumped the gun on the final results of the study it purported to be based upon. And it raised a curious question: Why should the EU plow ahead with 17 expensive studies when it knows the outcome from the beginning?

Moreover, the announcement left major questions unanswered about the scientific basis of the EU's policy. The data behind the interim study results were not immediately available.

At the same time, there is substantial evidence the product is safe: Americans and Canadians have been eating hormone-treated beef for decades with no evidence of harm. Study after study has shown there is no difference in the effects of synthetic and natural hormones. And the United Nations agency responsible for food safety issues, Codex Alimentarius, has given a clean bill of health to the substances the EU cites as most dangerous.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

But none of that deterred Ms. Bonino, who says the danger is so great that even warning labels will not offer enough protection. Her declaration appeared to close off a promising compromise involving labeling; if a product is banned, the question of how to label it becomes academic.

U.S. trade negotiators, who initially opposed the idea of labeling beef as hormone-treated, now are warming to the idea. To be sure, it would add costs to U.S. and Canadian beef products. But faced with the option of no access at all to the EU market, producers are relenting. Given the chance, some might even make a virtue of necessity, marketing their products as "New, Improved, Hormone-Treated!"

It remains for the EU to back down from its Nanny stance and let consumers decide for themselves—just as they do with cigarettes, alcohol, and other products that pose much greater safety risks than beef growth hormones. No government can guarantee its citizens zero risk, and no public agency should presume to try. The best it can do is base its policies on sound science, and respect its citizens' rights to make an informed choice.

HONORING BERNARD CEDERBAUM

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Scarsdale Bowl Award, Scarsdale's highest civic honor, has been given annually since 1943 to honor "one who has given unselfishly of time, energy, and effort to serve the civic welfare of the community." Today, I would like to recognize a resident of my district who, through nearly three decades of tireless community service, perfectly embodies the spirit of this award.

Since moving to Scarsdale 28 years ago, Bernard Cederbaum has chaired or served on no fewer than 10 of Scarsdale's boards, councils, and committees. He is one of a very small group of residents to have served on both the board of education (1979–85) and the village board of trustees (1993–98). A natural leader and commonsense decisionmaker, Mr. Cederbaum has presided over the Town Club, Scarsdale Foundation, Environmental Advisory Council, and Greenacres Association. Those who have served with Mr. Cederbaum admire his intelligence, sense of fairness, reasonable approach to problems solving, and his quick sense of humor.

Mr. Cederbaum's commitment to a successful professional career has always been balanced with an unyielding dedication to voluntarism. Remarkably, Mr. Cederbaum dedicated countless hours to the town of Scarsdale while he worked as a partner at the law firm of Carter, Ledyard, & Milburn, presided over the New York State Bar Association's Corporation and Business Law Section, and participated in various committees of the New York City Association of the Bar.

The Scarsdale Bowl Award marks Mr. Cederbaum's fulfillment of his goal, to make a valuable contribution to the community in which he lives. I join with the residents of Scarsdale in applauding Mr. Cederbaum's commitment to our community and I am proud

to officially recognize this remarkable civic leader for his many years of service.

IN HONOR OF HIS HOLINESS BABA KASHMIRA JI MAHARAJ FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE INDIAN COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His Holiness Baba Kashmira Ji Maharaj for his commitment to equality and tolerance in India.

Called a visionary with a humane touch, Baba Ji has been instrumental in facilitating the distribution of medical services to the most needy in the remote villages of Punjab. By founding the S.G.L. Charitable Hospital at Jalandhar, Baba Ji has ensured that blood donation sites and necessary cancer treatment and detection equipment are available to the area's less fortunate.

Through a combination of meditation and medication, Baba Ji and the Charitable Hospital has assisted the sick, drug addicts and those suffering from depression. Now, plans have been established to create a nursing college, a dental college, and a medical college.

Another issue of great significance to Baba Ji is that of gender equality. He has been instrumental in highlighting the discrimination and degradation suffered by Indian women. He has spoken passionately about the oppression created by the dowry system and has repeatedly lent his services to families unable to meet the expenses of a wedding.

Baba Ji has also made essential and indispensable strides towards assisting Indian women in their quest for economic independence. He and his family have long been promoters of equal education rights for boys and girls. In 1910, Baba Ji's father and grandfather donated the necessary land and money to found an institution designed to address the educational needs of India's young women and girls. This institution has become one of the finest women's educational institutions in Asia.

From assisting earthquake and flood victims to his ground breaking medical work to his efforts towards equality in India, His Holiness Baba Ji has worked tirelessly on behalf of India's disadvantaged. For his tremendous work in these areas; for his insight and leadership; and for his continued dedication to the underprivileged, I would like to thank and congratulate His Holiness Baba Ji.

HONORING DR. HENRY KENDALL, SCIENTIST AND HUMANITARIAN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a late friend and colleague, Dr. Henry Kendall.

Dr. Kendall was foremost a great scientist. He received the Nobel Prize in 1990, along with two colleagues, Dr. Richard Taylor and

Dr. Jerome Friedman, for experiments that confirmed the existence of quarks. As a physicist, Dr. Kendall constantly sought to break new ground, searching for new scientific phenomena and effects.

Dr. Kendall, however, was not content to remain solely in the laboratory. Concerned about governmental issues like nuclear proliferation and the safety of nuclear reactors, he helped found the Union of Concerned Scientists. This public interest group presses for control of technologies which may be harmful or dangerous. Dr. Kendall served as Chairman of the UCS from 1974 until his recent death. A strong advocate of public safety, Dr. Kendall devoted nearly every minute outside of his laboratory to campaigns to curb the nuclear arms race and alert the public to the most pressing environmental threats of our time.

Through his efforts, Dr. Kendall was a living testimony to how scientists and politicians can work together to further the public welfare. He testified numerous times before Congress about issues of technological safety, as he firmly believed that scientists could—and should—play an important role in public policy debates. His leadership of UCS was deeply rooted in the belief that, given accurate and credible information, the public and policy makers would ultimately make the right choices about the future. He had a rare gift for taking the long view and understanding how human activities and natural systems are intricately intertwined. He encouraged his co-workers to never shy away from the big problems facing the future of humanity and the natural world.

In his leisure time, Dr. Kendall was an avid outdoorsman, with a love of scuba diving and mountain climbing. His adventures took him to the Andes and the Himalayas, where he took pleasure in the beauty of our world.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kendall was an exemplary man in both his work as a scientist and as a public advocate. It is a rare man who can excel at such widely differing fields, and work to bring them closer together. Years from now Dr. Kendall may simply be remembered as a Nobel Prize Winner. But to pay tribute to this one facet of his life would be to deny the completeness of the man, and all that he attempted to do to help the people of this nation.

I hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in extending this tribute to Dr. Kendall.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of March, I have introduced articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to document the continued effects racism and discrimination are having on our nation. Although the killings of James Byrd in Jasper, TX, and Isaiah Shoels in Littleton, CO have painfully thrust the acts of overt, violent racism into the national spotlight, the articles I have entered into the RECORD will show, if they do not already, that we can not sit by silently while this cancer grows unchecked.

The origins of our great nation were nascent with promises of freedom, justice, and equality